

1940

1941

No.:

N.I.

Seen by PW
Cardell

SECRET

PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

NAME OF FILE:—

NAZI PARTY.

FO 1093/152

INDEXED

MOST SECRET

C/6702.

LONDON,

5th June, 1941.

My dear Henry,

Reference attached:

I will bear this matter in mind, although unless my officers have been completely deceived by Hess, there is not the slightest probability in the story. He takes not the slightest interest in financial matters, nor does he appear to have any knowledge of business. If, therefore, a fortune had been secreted for him outside, I feel positive there would have been some slight reaction on finance.

Incidentally, as you are aware from another note, his garments are not those of a City magnate!

Yours ever,

21

H. L. d'A. Hopkinson, Esq.

'C'

You will remember
 that the two strikes were
 from 1914 at the time
 and turned out to be
 ill-founded. At the
 same time I suppose
 there would be no
 harm in trying to
 find out from H.
 whether he was among
 friends abroad.

Yours
 1 June 44

INDEXED


Mr. Hopkinson.

TREASURY CHAMBERLAINS,

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

S.W.1.

RCS
3/6
3rd June, 1941.

Dear Stevenson,

I have no idea of what you are doing in regard to questioning Rudolf Hess, but if you are trying to obtain from him the maximum amount of information, you will no doubt bear in mind the stories, which were retailed at the beginning of the war by Knickerbocker, about the private fortunes of some of the Nazi leaders. I enclose an extract from an article which appeared in the Daily Telegraph of 28th September, 1939, dealing with Hess and showing a very large dollar sum alleged to be held in Brazil and substantial life insurance policies in Swiss francs and Dutch florins.

The Treasury has no official standing qua exchange control in



THE TREASURY CHAMBERS,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S.W. 1.

the case of a prisoner of war, but
I am sure you will not overlook
the propaganda effect that could
be obtained from any confirmation
of Knickerbocker's stories.

Yours sincerely,

William Smith

R.C.S. Stevenson, Esq., C.M.G.

EXTRACT from an article in the Daily Telegraph of
28th September, 1939.

Hess's agents are as follows:-

(1) Georges Cann, of Bremen and Sao Paulo, one of the men who control the Nord Deutscher Lloyd;

(2) Rudolf Eduard Hess, his cousin, travelling in the Near East and Far East for German metallurgical firms;

(3) Georges Twardowski, a journalist and writer, a member of the German Second Bureau, travelling between Berlin and Switzerland, Belgium and formerly France.

Hess's banks are the Societa Italiana di Credito at Vienna, the Basler Handelsbank at Mannheim and the Bayerische Handelsbank and Boden Kreditanstalt at Munich.

Cann has deposited for Hess in a Sao Paulo bank, probably the Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank of Berlin, a sum equal to \$475,000 equal to £95,000.

Eduard Hess and Twardowski have deposited either in their name or in the names of others in three of the above-mentioned banks foreign currency and bonds, chiefly Swiss and Dutch, amounting to 4,250,000 marks (£354,166). Insurance policies taken out by Hess through the intermediary of the Jauch Huebener Company, 28, Budapesterstrasse, Berlin, are divided as follows:

On his life, 1,500,000 Swiss francs (£84,000); 480,000 Dutch florins (£60,000); £53,000, and 1,380,000 marks (£115,000). On his wife's life £24,000 and 620,000 marks (£51,666).

The papers below
this note belong
to Mr. Hopkins
files.

S/V
Dep't



R.A.B. 1/10/40
R.A.B. 1/10/40

L^d Davies, whom I saw today,
agreed to take off this q^r
or, at any rate, not to ask
it.

He also took advantage of his inter-
-view to request mildly.

- a) a declaration of War aims
- b) an Int: Air Force.
- c) a revised system of diplomacy.

REB 21/4.

CENTRAL
PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTION.

House of Lords
INDEXED

N. I.

L. *The Lord Davies — To ask His Majesty's Government whether any authentic information is yet available regarding the private funds alleged to have been deposited outside Germany by leading members of the National Socialist Party.

The attached secret file makes it clear that there is at least some doubt whether the information published in 1939 was well founded. In any case we have no authentic information. It would therefore seem best to persuade Lord Davies, if possible, to withdraw his question, since if it is maintained, the answer will

10 APR
REGISTRAR

will have to be negative,
which would give German
propaganda an opening.

Private Sec

P. J. Fey

I agree. Lord Davies could be
told privately that we cannot reveal
secret sources etc.

J. Roberts
17/4

I agree.

W. M. R. A. B.

W. M. R. A. B.
18/4

ALB.

April 18. 1941

I agree.

~~Private Sec~~

I should be grateful if
Mr. Butler could find time to see Lord Davies

and him not to press.
H. H. Butler 19.

Secret

Rehn - h³

per Hopkinson

C.1
INDEXED

30th August, 1939.

Dear Mr. Renny,

Sir Alexander Cadogan would be very grateful if you could come and see me some time in regard to the matter which you have recently discussed with Sir Louis Greig. If it is convenient to you I suggest some time on Thursday next, August 31st - perhaps at four o'clock in the afternoon.

(Sd.) GLADWYN JEBB

30/8
John Renny, Esq.,
7 Gower Street,
LONDON, W.C.1.

Return to Mr. Hopkinson
Mr. Stevenson to see
RCM
9/6

INDEXED
N.I.

7th June, 1941.

Stevenson has passed to me your letter of June 3rd in which you enclosed an extract from "The Daily Telegraph" about Hess's alleged balances abroad.

We are very grateful to you for bringing this to our attention and we will bear the matter in mind, but in fact we have for a long time had very considerable doubts about the veracity of these stories of Nazi fortunes abroad.

(Sgd.) HENRY L. d' A. HOPKINSON

H. Wilson Smith Esq.,
Treasury.

S/S Would you like Mr Webb
 to see Mr Penny? (M 28.3)

SANDS POINT

FINDHORN

TELEPHONE

FORRES

1934.

INDEXED

Dear Lord Halifax.

I have now heard from
 my "informant" & he tells
 me that he will be only too
 willing to see you, or someone
 appointed by you. Tell you the
 whole story, with a dossier supporting
 the figures, with details of the
 sources of his information, & the
 methods by which they were
 obtained. He is at present

in London will be for some
time.

His name is: —

John Reilly

7 Lower Street
London W.C.1

Telephone

Number 1184

Should you desire to go further
in the matter.

Yours

Louis Greig

28. 6. 39.

ADOLF HITLER.

In spite of continued research, no information is available on any foreign holdings or insurances owned by the above. In fact, it is claimed that this person has invested all his property in various Nazi undertakings in Germany and Austria. He holds considerable stock in certain State undertakings incorporated in the Hermann Goering Works.

HERMANN GOERING:

INSURANCES transacted through foreign representatives of one of the Directors of:

Jauch Hübener & Co.,
Budapesterstrasse, 28,
Berlin, W.62.

On life of Hermann Goering:

- (1) 1,000,000 Swiss Francs.
- (2) 400,000 Dollars, U.S.A.
- (3) 3,500,000 Dutch Guilders.
- (4) 1,500,000 Swedish Kroner.

On life of Emy Goering:

- (1) 800,000 Swedish Kroner.
- (2) 250,000 Swedish Kroner.
- (3) 1,000,000 Dutch Guilders.
- (4) 380,000 Swiss Francs.

AGENTS for Hermann Goering are:

1. Heinz Schluetter of Hamburg, travelling to Sao Paulo, Brazil, of I.G.Farbenindustrie A.G., Zentrale Direktion.
2. Richard Bergmann, travelling from Bremen to New York, of Mittel Deutsche Kohlen Syndicat.
3. Eduard Pöckl, travelling from Mainz to Zurich and Geneva, of independent means (German Intelligence ?)
4. Sepp Eckhardt, travelling between Salzburg and Rio de Janeiro, is Austrian Gestapo. Expert South American affairs.

Through the following Banks:

1. Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank, Berlin.
2. Deutsche Südamerikanische Bank A.G.

Agent No.1. has, in a Sao Paulo Bank, Safe Deposit Bank No.1. currency to the value of \$1,225,000 U.S.A. (£245,000)

Through Agent No.3. and the Badische Bank Mannheim deposited in New York with a German American Shipping firm, Bonds to the value of \$750,000 U.S.A. (£150,000) principally in American Railway Bonds, e.g. Pennsylvania Railway 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, 1970, Illinois Central 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ %, 1966, and Cities Service and Bethlehem Steel 7%. These are held by nominees in New York and also controlled by Agent No.2.

Through Agent No.4. and at the Banco di Sicilia in Trieste and A.B. Svenska Handelsbanken at Malmö \$1,000,000 U.S.A. in foreign currencies, e.g. Swedish Kroner, Danish Crowns, Dutch Guilders, Belgian Francs, and held in a safe deposit.

At the Sumitomo Bank Ltd. of San Francisco, Bearer Bonds, particularly on Montecatini and Royal Dutch; and certain South American securities, are deposited, value £120,000 (\$600,000 U.S.A.) and finally in two safe deposits, the one at Zurich, with a Swiss German Stock Broker, and the other in Chicago, in the safe of a German importing firm, foreign currencies, particularly dollars are held, value £35,000.

RUDOLF HESS:

INSURANCES transacted through foreign representatives of one of the Directors of:

Jauch Hübener & Co.
Budapesterstrasse, 28,
Berlin, W.62.

On life of Rudolf Hess:

- (1) 1,500,000 Swiss Francs.
- (2) 480,000 Dutch Guilders.
- (3) £53,000 sterling.
- (4) 1,380,000 Reichmarks.

On life of Frau Hess.

- (1) £24,000 sterling.
- (2) 620,000 Reichmarks.

AGENTS for Rudolf Hess are:

- 1. Georg Camm of Bremen and Sao Paulo, Brazil, one of the financial controllers (Gestapo ?) Norddeutscher Lloyd Steamship Co.
- 2. Rudolf Eduard Hess, Cousin, and travelling throughout the near and far East for German machinery firms.
- 3. Georg Twardowski, Writer and Journalist, travelling between Berlin, Switzerland, Belgium and France (German Military Intelligence Service)

Through the following Banks:

- 1. Societe Italiana di Credito, Vienna.
- 2. Basler Handelsbank, Basle.
- 3. Badische Bank, Mannheim.
- 4. Bayerische Handelsbank-Bodencreditanstalt. Head Office Munich.

Agent No.1. has in a Sao Paulo Bank, probably the Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank of Berlin, currency to the value of \$475,000 U.S.A.

Agents Nos. 2 and 3 have safe deposits either in their own names or through nominees at Basler Handelsbank, Basle; Badische Bank, Mannheim; and Bayerische Handelsbank-Bodencreditanstalt, Munich, wherein foreign currencies and bonds to the value of 4,250,000 Reichmarks are deposited. Currency is known to be principally in Swiss and Dutch notes.

JOACHIM VON RIBBENTROP

INSURANCES transacted through friends in the wine industry principally domiciled in Alsace-Lorraine (Colmar, Riquewihr and Mainz)

On life of Joachim von Ribbentrop

- (1) 3,000,000 French Francs.
- (2) 1,760,000 Belgas.
- (3) 2,800,000 Dutch Guilders.
- (4) 8,900,000 Reichmarks.

On life of Frau von Ribbentrop

- (1) 520,000 Dollars U.S.A.
- (2) 3,600,000 Lira

On life of eldest Son.

- (1) £38,000 sterling.

AGENTS for Joachim von Ribbentrop are:

1. Robert Schmidt Eylan of Baden-Baden and Milan. Rich Wine Grower and nephew of Henkell, von Ribbentrop's Father-in-law.
2. Maximilian and Hans Grosse of Bonn, travelling to Rheims and Bordeaux. Large importers of wines and southern produce.
3. Heinrich Harbau of Berlin and Goettingen, travelling to New York and Chicago -apparently independent, but actually mutual friend and confidential agent of Adolf Hitler and Joachim von Ribbentrop.

The above agents have arranged for Joachim von Ribbentrop, and the latter has also arranged personally, very large deposits of foreign currencies in notes of small denominations at the following banks:-

1. Amsterdamsche Bank N.V. at Haarlem,
2. N.V.Hollandsche Buitenland Bank, The Hague,
3. Banca della Svizzera Italiana, Zurich,

to the value of £633,000 sterling, principally in U.S.A. dollars, French Francs, Swedish Kroner, and Dutch Guilders.

ROBERT LEY.

INSURANCES transacted by a Director of Messrs. Blom & Voss, shipbuilding company of Hamburg and Lubeck through Danziger Raiffeisenbank, e.G.m.b.H., Danzig.

On life of Robert Ley.

2,850,000 Danziger Gulden,
with the right to convert into Dutch
Florins on 1st May 1940.

On life of second wife of Robert Ley.

1,530,000 Danziger Gulden,
with the right to convert into Dutch
Florins on 1st October 1939.

Robert Ley has employed until recently the following Agents:

1. Alphonse Muckermann of Stuttgart and Cologne, travelling to the far East ostensibly as German Foreign Office Courier. This man was beheaded three weeks ago for "treason".
2. Paul Richter of Munster and Liege, travelling principally to German South-west Africa by Woermann Steamship Lines. This man was involved in a scandal and was suspected of embezzlement of funds to the value of 7,500,000 Reichmarks, and is now in concentration camp at Dachau.

Robert Ley, therefore, has now chosen the following two men as Agents:

3. Franz Borsemann of Berlin and Landsberg a/d Warthe. This person is a member of Ley's personal staff having very good contacts with German circles in Chicago and San Francisco.
4. Wilhelm Otto von Twettow of Berlin who periodically travels to London and to Manchukuo. This man is an important dealer and importer of Chinese produce.

Through Agents Nos. 1 and 2, Ley has gradually accumulated out of profits of the "Kraft durch Freude" organisation, sums amounting to \$715,000 U.S.A. This money has been deposited with certain Banks in Estonia and Latvia.

Through Agents Nos. 3 and 4, Ley has been sending moneys out of Germany each month approximating to £10,000 to £12,000 per month, during the past six months. These sums are being used for the purchase of estates in South America through nominees.

HEINRICH HIMMLER.

INSURANCES transacted through friends in Southern United States of Count Ciano for and on behalf of Himmler.

- (1) 380,000 Dollars U.S.A.
- (2) 4,630,000 Lire.

AGENTS for Heinrich Himmler are:

1. Franz Holthausen, Bremen, Travelling to South U.S.A. ports and Chili, high confidential official in Gestapo, ostensibly purchaser of coffee and other South American produce.
2. Edith Menzi (This name is assumed. Actual surname not known) Gestapo agent in Vienna, continuously travelling to various "Colonies" throughout the world for the purpose of checking up activities of local Nazi organisations.

Through the above two agents, Himmler has accumulated since 1929 foreign currency and bonds which have been deposited with German friends throughout South America and also in the near East, e.g. Alexandria, Smyrna, and also in Finland, to the value of approximately 2,000,000 Dollars U.S.A.

JULIUS STREICHERINSURANCES.

This man has no insurances effected abroad, but he has very large insurance policies with various companies in Germany to the value of over 10,000,000 Reichmarks.

AGENTS.

He is known to have only one Agent travelling abroad on his behalf. This is a woman known by the name of Else Schwerter. (She is known in Franconia by this name, but no information is available as to the name under which she travels abroad). She travels ostensibly as a tourist on German Liners periodically as a cruising passenger, and since 1933 has deposited with personal friends in Japan, Argentina, and the U.S.A. foreign currencies to the value of 400,000 dollars. Further Streicher has purchased considerable interests in German newspapers outside of Europe, and profits accruing to him from these newspapers are placed in deposit in names of nominees in certain small banks in South America. It is estimated that these deposits amount to approximately £70,000 sterling.

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S. of S.

You will remember that this arose in
our conversation with Sir H. Wilson on Wednesday.
The Admiral is reluctant to do anything at the
moment, and I think we shall certainly
be more sure of our ground.

C/3446.

LONDON.

10th August, 1939.

Very disconcerting - I
might ask Louis Freig
if he tells us
any more precise
info? #

My dear Cadogan,

With reference to our conversation this afternoon, I
have ascertained that so far, we have been unable to obtain
any confirmation of the statements about the funds held
abroad by the Nazi leaders.

On the contrary, in two instances at least, we know
that the persons who are alleged to be holding such funds,
do not in fact exist.

Yours ever,

12.8
"C" told me subsequently that
he thought a good deal of
this was anti-Nazi
propaganda.
I am written
A

The Hon. Sir Alexander Cadogan, G.C.M.G., C.B.